

**Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission**  
**Rio Grande Board Room**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

**MLK Attendees:** Adrienne Andrews, Dr. Forrest Crawford, Dr. Rob Harter, Dr. Karen Johnson, Carla Kelley, Jasen Lee, Beth Martial, Claudia Nakano, Ed Napia, Robert Rendon

**Excused:** Luis Garza, Shawn Newell, Lavinia Taumoepeau-Latu

**Guests:** Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Julie Fisher, Jenny Hor, Brian Somers

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**Welcome – Dr. Rob Harter**

Dr. Rob Harter welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Robert Rendon motioned to approve the minutes from January 6, 2016. Adrienne Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Hate Crimes Legislation Update:**

As a governor-appointed commission, the commission will need to receive clearance from the Governor's Office prior to taking a formal position on legislative matters but the commission may advocate for issues and disseminate information. Additionally, commission members may endorse pieces of legislation with their respective institutions or as private citizens. The commission is allowed to host community forums and town hall meetings on the subject of hate crimes as long as it is not discussing specific legislation—unless granted approval by the Governor's Office.

Commission members discussed the following in seeking approval from the Governor's Office to formally endorse the amendments:

- Preparing a document addressed to Governor Herbert articulating how the vision of the commission mirrors the proposed amendments and how the lack of support would be antithetical to the work of the group unless clear reasons exist for not supporting the legislation. Additionally, the commission is tasked with focusing on issues of human rights and hate crimes are violations of that making the issue relevant for the commission to act upon.
- Focusing on educational pieces—such as providing training or disseminating information—for members of the community as a means of providing support even if the Governor's Office does not support the amendments.
- Responding as a commission as opposed to individuals to strengthen the message and impact.
- Thoroughly reading Senator Urquhart's amendments to consider if the language is something each member stands by.
- Making clear the commission is not speaking on behalf of the governor.
- Collaborating with the Multicultural Commission and having both commissions' names on the letter to the governor.

Dr. Forrest Crawford, Dr. Karen Johnson, and Jasen Lee agreed to write a document to Governor Herbert requesting approval to support the amendments.

**King Conversation Series – Commission Discussion**

Commission members discussed the following in hosting a King Conversation Series on refugees:

- Collaborating with the Multicultural Commission as some members are connected to the refugee communities as are members of the MLK Commission such as Beth Martial and Robert Rendon.
- Having a panel discussion to engage different voices and to have a conversation as opposed to a lecture.
- Partnering with Weber State University, Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, and Ogden City in putting together a panel discussion as Ogden is a relocation site for refugees. Other potential panelists and collaborative partners include: Aden Batar, Gerald Brown, Catholic

Community Services, International Rescue Committee, and Refugee & Immigrant Center - Asian Association of Utah.

- Organizing an event in March after spring break in the Ogden area.

The King Conversation Series began strongly but the series eventually ceased. Part of the reason for the series not continuing was the planning of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Commission members discussed setting reasonable expectations. Suggestions for hosting this year's King Conversation Series included:

- Organizing a series each quarter or every other month.
- Partnering with each commission member's respective institutions on events they are already hosting.
- Collaborating with another commission member to lessen the pressure of being solely responsible for an event.
- Hosting the same event but at different locations.
- Outreaching to communities beyond each commission member's networks.
- Focusing on a broader range of topics as opposed to specific pieces.
- Encouraging the attendance and direct participation of youth by working with colleges and universities and their respective offices of diversity.
- Providing tangible steps for what each attendee can be responsible for after the event concludes.
- Using information stations for some events as opposed to a lecture or panel discussion.

Commission members agreed to organize a King Conversation Series each quarter for the months of March, June, September, and December. The focus of these series should be on human rights with subtopics that address specific issues. The series' schedule is as follows:

Month	Commission Members	Topics
March	Adrienne Andrews Beth Martial Robert Rendon	Refugees
June	Dr. Karen Johnson Beth Martial	Hate crimes
September	Carla Kelley Jasen Lee	Community relations & civic engagement
December	Carla Kelley Ed Napia	Health disparities & poverty

#### **Other Business – Commission Discussion**

The recruitment for a director of the Utah Office of Multicultural Affairs will be open to the public and the Department of Heritage & Arts administration will seek a representative from the commission to serve on the recruitment committee.

Additionally, a farewell celebration will be held in honor of Claudia Nakano on February 26 at the Rio Grande Depot. The commission discussed providing her with a gift.

The MLK Commission will provide Weber State University President Chuck Wight with a certificate recognizing his commitment to human rights. The recognition will coincide with a convocation featuring Wes Moore on February 22 at the Wildcat Theater – Shepherd Union. Adrienne Andrews will provide wording for the certificate.

#### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Jasen Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting. Adrienne Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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#### **Action Items**

The next MLK meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. at the University of Utah in Parlor A of the Olpin Union Building.

Upcoming Meetings (first Wednesdays of every month in the Rio Board Room):

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7